

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:RAMCGUIRE/D
APPROVED BY AF:RMMOOSE
AFR/CAWA:FSCORDATO
S/S-O :JETHYDEN
NSC:RICHARDSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 166871

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, GH

SUBJECT: ACHEAMPONG'S PERSONAL APPEAL FOR MEDICAL ASSIST-
ANCE

REF: ACCRA 5414

1. AGREE WITH AMBASSADOR'S RECOMMENDATION THAT USG NOT
BECOME INVOLVED IN GHANIAN INTERNAL POLITICS BY ATTEMPTING
PROVIDE DOCTORS OR MEDICAL SUPPLIES ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS
IN WHAT WOULD BE SEEN BY MANY SEGMENTS GHANIAN POPULATION
AS USG ATTEMPT TO SHORE UP UNSTABLE AND UNPOPULAR
ACHEAMPONG REGIME.

2. IN RESPONDING TO ACHEAMPONG, YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT
OUR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR SUCH
MATERIAL ASSISTANCE EXCEPT IN CASES OF DISASTER RELIEF.

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YOU CAN POINT OUT THAT GOG HAS BEEN ABLE TO ARRANGE QUICK
IMPORTATION OF FOODSTUFFS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES (AUTOCLAVES
FOR KORLE BU HOSPITAL, FOR EXAMPLE) IN RECENT PAST, AND
SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SAME AT THIS TIME IF MEDICAL SUPPLIES
ARE INDEED IN UNUSUALLY SHORT SUPPLY.

3. WE NOTE THAT, IN ORDER END STRIKE OF REFINERY WORKERS,

GOG AGREED TO STATION MILITARY DOCTORS AT REFINERY (ACCRA 5348), AND IT WOULD SEEM THAT MILITARY MEDICAL PERSONNEL COULD BE PRESSED INTO SERVICE TO MEET EMERGENCY NEEDS OF POPULACE UNTIL DOCTORS STRIKE IS RESOLVED. '

4. HOWEVER, PLEASE ASCERTAIN ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS WHETHER THERE IS A LEGITIMATE CRISIS NEED FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES ONLY, OVER AND BEYOND GOG POLITICAL MACHINATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR RECOMMENDATION AS TO HOW, SHOULD SUCH A NEED BECOME SUFFICIENTLY DIRE, USG MIGHT FACILITATE THEIR IMPORTATION OR THEIR PROVISION THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS WITHOUT BECOMING INVOLVED IN GHANAIAAN INTERNAL POLITICS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO, RPT NO PLANS FOR SUCH USG ACTION. VANCE

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